

Substitute B 561

Chapter 561: I Want a Daddy~

Little Pip curled his lips, a bit of mischievous and provocative smile appearing on his handsome little face, "That truly is my honor."

"Bro~" At this moment, Stella ran over, grabbing Little Pip's arm, anxiously explaining, "Bro, you misunderstood, this uncle is a good person, he helped me put on my shoes earlier and even bought me a lollipop."

Only then did Little Pip realize he had mistaken someone, so he immediately put away his toy gun, swiftly and neatly tucking it into the pocket at his waist. He looked up at Hayden Crawford, "Uncle, it was a misunderstanding, I'm sorry."

Hayden Crawford saw that Little Pip was the same age as Stella and guessed that they were twins. He nodded, "It's okay."

At this moment, Auntie Barnes hurried over, "Little Master, Little Miss, why did you run into the airport? Come with me quickly, I was so scared when I couldn't find you!"

Little Pip took Stella's small hand, "Mimi, let's go home. Uncle, goodbye."

Stella also looked longingly at Hayden Crawford, "Goodbye, Uncle."

Auntie Barnes took Little Pip and Stella away.

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The three of them got into a deluxe edition nanny car. Stella looked at Auntie Barnes, "Auntie Barnes, what does daddy mean?"

Hearing Stella ask this question, Auntie Barnes felt a pang of sadness.

She gently stroked Stella's smooth hair, softly explaining, "Daddy and Mommy are a pair. With them, there can be the Little Miss and Little Master..."

Auntie Barnes didn't dare to say more, fearing she would make Stella sad.

"Oh," Stella softly leaned on Auntie Barnes' shoulder, "I know what it means, our neighbor Polly has both a daddy and a mommy, her daddy can lift her really high every day."

Since she was born, Stella has only had a mommy. While watching her good friend Polly being lifted so high by her daddy, she never felt envious. She truly liked her home as it was.

But today, when that uncle helped her put on her shoes, he lifted her up. The uncle was so tall, and his arms were so strong, it felt completely different from Mommy's embrace. Stella didn't yet know that it was a special paternal power, but instinctively she longed for and relied on that kind of power.

Auntie Barnes didn't know how to comfort this little girl. Since Pip and Stella were born, she had been taking care of the two children, but she also didn't know who their daddy was.

At this moment, Auntie Barnes thought of that man earlier, who was so handsome. She mentally pictured her princess and that man together, both such beautiful people, as if they were made for each other.

Then Auntie Barnes looked at Little Pip, "Little Master, from now on, we must not go out alone. Look, today I went to the supermarket to buy something and left the Little Miss with you, but when I came back, neither of you were there. Fortunately, there was no accident; otherwise, I would have no face to face the queen and princess."

Little Pip was a bit distracted today, he was thinking about the Little Caden Crawford he saw at the airport.

He didn't catch up with Little Caden Crawford, and he didn't know if that really was his brother.

"Auntie Barnes, don't worry, I would never let Mimi get lost." Little Pip suppressed all his inner thoughts, puffing up his small chest, speaking confidently.

Auntie Barnes was amused.

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In the evening, Little Pip took a bath, then walked into Stella's room.

Although he felt that in the face of his intelligence, little Mimi's intellect was clearly lacking, he still loved his Mimi very much.

He pushed open the door to Stella's room, where Stella was lying in a small, cuddly lump on the bed, pulling the quilt up to cover her small face.

Little Pip sighed, already three years old, how could she still like sleeping with the quilt covering her face?

He reached out to pull the quilt away.

As he pulled the quilt back, Little Pip saw Stella's little face. She hadn't yet fallen asleep, her pink little mouth was pouting, and her face was covered in tear stains, looking very pitiful.

Little Pip was startled; he sat on the edge of the bed, quickly reaching out to wipe Stella's tears, "Stella, what's wrong, why are you crying, did someone bully you?"

Seeing her brother, Stella let out her little lamb cries, weeping, "Waa waa, bro, why don't we have a daddy?"

Daddy...

Little Pip froze hearing this word. He didn't know either, he had never seen daddy. But he guessed that daddy was probably dead.

He also didn't dare ask Mommy, for fear of making her sad.

"Bro, Polly and other kids all have daddies, why don't we... I also want a daddy, I also want a daddy to hug me."

Stella reached out her soft little hand to clasp Little Pip, "Bro, why don't we have a daddy in our family, we're very good, why doesn't daddy come to see us? Is it because...daddy doesn't like us, daddy doesn't want us anymore..."

"Mimi..." Little Pip extended his arms to hug Stella, softly comforting her, "Daddy probably likes us, and daddy wants us. Daddy misses us very much in a place far away, just daddy and Mommy are busy with work, so they're apart for now."

"Bro, then where is our daddy now, I really miss daddy. Bro, help me find daddy, okay?" Little Stella eagerly looked at Little Pip with her big eyes.

Little Pip felt a bit troubled; where was he supposed to find a daddy for Mimi, couldn't let daddy come back from the dead?

"Bro, why don't we find daddy back, you see Mommy taking care of us alone is so hard. If we find daddy back for Mommy, then there'll be one more person to love Mommy, to share the burden with her, right?"

Little Pip thought that it made sense; Mommy was still so young and pretty, couldn't possibly live a lonely life because of daddy's absence, right?

He might as well help Mommy find a daddy.

"Mimi, what kind of daddy do you like?"

Stella thought for a moment, "I like that uncle we saw at the airport today. I want the uncle to be my daddy~"

Little Pip understood, Stella had taken such a roundabout way actually looking at that uncle at the airport, wanting the uncle to be daddy.

"Bro, don't you like the uncle at the airport?"

Little Pip thought for a moment, he quite liked that uncle too, "Alright Mimi, let's check out what the uncle does first, at least he has to match our Mommy and be strong enough to support us, right?"

Stella nodded; anything her brother said now was right.

Little Pip took Stella to the computer, drew a portrait of Hayden Crawford, and put it into the computer scanner, then he hacked into the global big data system, quickly finding Hayden Crawford's personal information.

Little Pip looked at the pop-up page, Hayden Crawford, CEO of Crawford Group, the world's number one conglomerate.

Chapter 562: Blind Date Invitation

Little Pip looked at Hayden Crawford's personal profile and seemed satisfied. This uncle looks quite impressive.

"Riley, what do you think? Do you have any way to contact that handsome uncle? I really want that handsome uncle to be my daddy," Stella said sweetly.

"Mimi, don't rush. I'll contact the handsome uncle now. If we want the handsome uncle to be our daddy, we first need to set him up for a date with our mommy."

"Date?" Stella didn't understand the meaning of this word.

Little Pip explained, "A date is where this handsome uncle meets our mommy, and then makes him like our mommy."

"The handsome uncle will definitely like our mommy. Mommy's so pretty and cute; she's my favorite," Stella said proudly.

Little Pip nodded, "Of course, if this handsome uncle has a keen eye and likes our mommy, he's truly lucky because it's a buy-one-get-two deal!"

With that, Little Pip used a tracking system to locate Hayden Crawford's IP address. The screen filled with flashing numbers, which were dizzying to watch, but Little Pip's small fingers kept tapping on the keyboard. Soon, Hayden Crawford's IP protection wall was breached.

"Alright, I'm sending the handsome uncle an... invitation for a date now."

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Hayden Crawford was already in the villa, in the study. On the desk was a thin laptop computer, and he was engaged in a video business meeting.

But soon, with a "ding," the computer in front suddenly went black.

"Young master," Corvus quickly walked over, startled, "What's wrong with the computer? Why did it suddenly go black?"

Hayden looked at the black screen before him, slightly furrowing his bold, arched brows, "Someone has hacked my computer."

"What? How is it possible?" Corvus exclaimed in shock, "Young master, our computer defense system is top-tier globally, and so far even those top-ranked hackers worldwide haven't been able to crack our system. Who on earth hacked us? I haven't heard of any new super hacker showing up recently."

Corvus was bewildered; he had been overstimulated lately. Today at the airport, he encountered a little kid with a toy gun, and he could tell by the way the kid handled the gun that his marksmanship was extraordinary.

And now, inexplicably, a super hacker had appeared and directly hacked the young master's computer, which boasted a globally top-tier defense system. Just how extraordinarily powerful must this hacker be?

At this moment, with a "bang bang bang," a string of firecracker sounds rang out, and a letter of invitation suddenly flashed on the already black screen.

"Young master, this super hacker has sent you something," said Corvus.

Hayden had already seen it; the invitation letter automatically opened, revealing a line of text: "Hello handsome uncle, I sincerely invite you to have a date with my mommy this weekend. Handsome uncle, make sure to join on time."

"..." Corvus was stunned. He thought this super hacker hacked the young master's computer to do something earth-shattering, and he was already on high alert just now. But who would have thought this super hacker was only sending the young master a... date invitation letter?

What does this mean?

Corvus could only say, the young master's charm is truly so overwhelming, attracting admirers from all directions.

"Young master, who exactly is this super hacker?"

Hayden curled his thin lips slightly, "It should be a... child."

Child?

"Who's the child of this family? If he hacked our computer, then his genes must be incredibly strong, on par with young master Caden."

Hayden was silent for a few seconds then spoke, "Hand this over to Caden Crawford and let him track down this person."

"Ah?" Corvus felt a bit troubled, "Young master, I can't boss young master Caden around. He definitely won't be willing to do this for us."

"Give it to him; he'll be interested," Hayden said casually.

Corvus could only nod, "Yes, young master."

Corvus turned around and took out his phone, carefully dialing young Caden Crawford's number.

The melodious ringtone sounded once, and then it was answered, young Caden Crawford's cool yet cold voice came through, "Hello. Uncle Wentworth."

Corvus felt a twitch at his temple; he hadn't married yet, shouldn't it be Brother Wentworth?

"Young master, here's the situation: Our computer was just hacked by a super hacker, and your daddy said to leave it to you to fix the system and track down this person," Corvus said with a forced smile.

The other end was silent for a few seconds, "I'm not interested. Let daddy handle it himself."

At this moment, Hayden came over, took the phone from Corvus, and directly spoke to young Caden Crawford, "That super hacker is a child around your age. If I'm not mistaken, he should be the little boy I saw at the airport today. He's extremely skilled, with masterful marksmanship, a worthy adversary for you."

At this time, young Caden Crawford was with Jude Crawford, the two sitting on the living room carpet playing chess. Now young Caden Crawford paused to answer the phone.

Upon hearing the word "airport," young Caden Crawford's innocent brow furrowed slightly, "Okay, send it to me."

After saying that, he directly hung up the phone.

Riley Sutton quickly handed over a thin laptop to young Caden Crawford.

Young Caden Crawford's fingers swiftly danced across the keyboard as he worked on fixing the defense system at his daddy's place.

Jude Crawford held a black chess piece in his hand, pondering his next move, and glanced up at his grandson, "Caden, whom did you meet at the airport today?"

Earlier, young Caden Crawford's subtle expression upon hearing the word "airport" did not escape Jude Crawford's keen observation.

Young Caden Crawford's fingers didn't stop as he said indifferently, "Grandpa, I didn't meet anyone, but when I got in the car, I suddenly felt my heart racing, as if something was chasing me, attracting me from behind. Yet when I turned to look, there was no one behind."

Jude Crawford's chiseled handsome face showed no emotional waves. He simply curled his thin lips with interest, "Oh, really?"

Soon, young Caden Crawford restored the defense system at Hayden's place and pinpointed Pip's address.

On the other side, Corvus marveled at the now-functioning computer screen, "Young master Caden is truly brilliant!"

Hayden sat in the black leather office chair; then his phone rang, and it was a call from young Caden Crawford.

Hayden pressed the button to answer, and young Caden Crawford's childish yet cold voice quickly came through, "That person is at Serene Garden, but you don't have to go over there, they've already run away."

Chapter 563: Serena Sterling's Fiancé

Hayden Crawford wasn't surprised. Little Caden Crawford had activated the anti-tracking system; the perverse hacker on the other end should have detected it immediately.

Hayden didn't say anything, and Little Caden continued, "You don't need to worry about this kid; just leave it to me."

After speaking, Little Caden hung up the phone.

Listening to the busy tone on the other end, Hayden, "..."

The only people in this world who dared to hang up on him were Little Caden Crawford and his mom!

Of course, today at the airport, there was also a little munchkin who made him raise his hands!

Hayden slowly narrowed his long eyes. In his mind, he saw the delicate little face of Stella, almost like a miniature Serena Sterling. Who exactly were those two children?

Hayden already had his suspicions; he compressed his thin lips into a chilling line.

At this moment, Corvus quickly approached, his face heavy, "Young Master, we just received some news."

Hayden, "Speak."

"Tomorrow, the Princess of Alani is set to arrive in the State of Westria to discuss marriage with Axel Ashworth, the King of Nine Peaks."

Titus Ashworth, over the years, had filled his harem, giving birth to many sons and daughters, among whom the most outstanding son was undoubtedly Axel Ashworth.

Axel Ashworth is Westria's most formidable general, wielding the nine crests of Westria. As a youth, Titus bestowed upon him the title of the King of Nine Peaks, granting him his own estate. He has always been the closest to the position of the Lord.

However, Titus favored the son born of Consort Willow, who was a bewitching beauty from The Exotic Lands. She had a son and a daughter; the daughter, Melody Ashworth, was Titus' most beloved princess, and the son, Kyle Ashworth, gained control over the palace guards due to Titus' favoritism.

Axel and Kyle secretly compete, both aiming for the supreme position of Lord.

Now, with the sudden arrival of the Princess from Alani, who chose Axel Ashworth among the top candidates for power succession, this news was like a bolt from the blue, having already stirred the current situation in Westria.

Hayden's handsome brow suddenly furrowed as he looked at Corvus, "The Princess of Alani? Which one is it?"

Corvus's forehead broke into a cold sweat immediately, "Young Master, the mysterious realm of Alani, which has vanished for a hundred years, has reappeared in the world, making a comeback. The Princess... Serena Sterling is on the verge of becoming the King of Nine Peaks' consort in Westria. If we're guessing correctly, this time Serena targets the position of Queen of Westria."

As the words fell, the entire study plunged into silence, oppressive and suffocating.

Only now did Hayden understand the true purpose of Serena Sterling's return three years later; her trip to Aethelgard was merely a detour. This time, she brings the mysterious secrets of Alani back to the world, opening the path to power in Westria.

She wants to marry Axel Ashworth?

What is her true aim?

They say that Westria and Alani are deeply connected; each Princess of Alani marries the Crown Prince of Westria, the two states maintaining prosperity through marital alliances.

Now, Serena intends to honor the century-old pact and marry Axel Ashworth?

In Hayden's eyes, a storm brewed suddenly, yet upon careful inspection, they revealed nothing, only deep like two abysses.

Corvus stood quietly and respectfully aside, not daring to speak or disturb Hayden. Serena Sterling's emergence with Alani meant sleepless nights for many.

However, for the onlookers enjoying the spectacle, excitement soared. Tomorrow, the Princess of Alani will parade through the streets in a flower carriage, and everyone is eager to catch a glimpse of this mysterious princess.

At this moment, a melodious phone ringtone sounded; Hayden received a call.

It was... Melody Ashworth.

Hayden pressed the button to answer, his voice low and magnetic, "Hello."

"Mr. Crawford, it's me. What have you been busy with lately? It's so late, I hope I'm not disturbing you." Melody's charming voice came through, tinged with a sweet laughter.

Hayden faintly curved his thin lips, "You're not disturbing."

"Here's the thing, Mr. Crawford. Tomorrow, the Princess of Alani is arriving in Westria, and my daddy has organized a grand welcome party at the palace. All the princes, princesses, and ministers will attend. I'd like to invite Mr. Crawford to join as well. I wonder if Mr. Crawford might need a female companion?" Melody volunteered to be Hayden's date.

Hayden felt no emotional stir; after a few seconds of silence, he spoke, "Alright, see you tomorrow."

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Serene Garden.

Pip quickly shut down the computer, then ran into Auntie Sullivan's room at top speed, "Auntie Sullivan, Auntie Sullivan, bad news, something big happened. We need to leave right away!"

Auntie Sullivan looked bewildered, "Little Master, what happened? Let me pack a couple of clothes first. It's chilly tonight; you must not catch a cold."

"No time for that, someone's tracking me, let's go!"

Pip grabbed Auntie Sullivan with one hand and Stella with the other, leaving Serene Garden without looking back and getting into a taxi.

Stella blinked her cute, innocent eyes at Pip, then lifted her milky white little hand to wipe her brother's sweat, "Brother, what's wrong? You're so brilliant; you've never encountered a rival. Could it be a master showing up this time?"

Pip took a few breaths, "Not just a master, but a genius! I wasn't prepared at all, nearly exposed my location, but... finding me won't be that easy."

Pip flashed a triumphant smile.

At this time, a vibrating sound was heard; Pip received a call.

It was from an unknown number.

Pip pressed the button to answer, but he didn't speak.

Soon, a tender yet cold voice came from the other end; it was Little Caden Crawford, "Who are you?"

Hearing this voice, Pip's heart raced, that familiar psychic connection swept over again. He countered with a question, "Who are you?"

Little Caden, "Then let me change the question, who's your mommy? This time I can answer first; my mommy is... Serena Sterling!"

Little Caden enunciated "Serena Sterling" in a clear and proud manner, with a tone of possession and proclamation.

Pip fell silent. So the psychic connection was real; his mommy was also named Serena Sterling, meaning the cold yet familiar person on the other end was his brother!

Now, Little Caden was still sitting on the soft wool carpet in the living room, holding the phone. His large black grape-like eyes showed a hint of sharpness and killing intent as he uttered, "This time, I'll give you a chance to escape. I hope you return to where you came from. I don't want to see you."

After speaking, Little Caden directly hung up the phone.

Pip listened to the busy signal on the other end and immediately stuck out his tongue, making a playful and adorable face, thinking, "Just because you're my brother doesn't mean I have to listen to you!"

Chapter 564: A Delicate Little Hand Reached Out

Stella looked at Pip with curiosity, "Brother, who was calling you?"

Pip said, "My big brother!"

"..." Stella seemed completely confused, "Brother, how about that handsome uncle, has he agreed to be our daddy?"

Pip patted Stella's little head, "Don't worry, leave it to Brother."

Seeing Brother looking so confident, Stella was relieved. In this world, there's nothing that can challenge Brother.

For now, Pip took Auntie Sullivan and Stella on the run. He was thinking he must meet his big brother face to face!

"Young Master, Young Miss, I've received news that Her Royal Highness the Princess has arrived in The State of Westria. Should we meet up with her?" Auntie Sullivan asked.

Pip waved his little hand, "Not for now, I have important things to do."

"But..."

"Auntie Sullivan, what did Uncle Seth tell you when he left, you're to listen to everything I say," Pip reminded.

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The next day, the princess of Alani arrived in Westria, causing a stir among the people.

In the middle of the road, a thousand-mile red carpet had already been laid. The roadside was lined with bouquets and white gauze, and the crowd gathered together like a sea of people.

At this moment, Hayden Crawford stood on a high observation platform, dressed today in a finely tailored black shirt and black trousers, his handsome appearance as striking as jade. However, a thin layer of cold air enveloped him, and his superior stance exuded an aura of aloofness and indifference.

Anyone with keen eyes could see Hayden Crawford was not in a good mood today, definitely best to avoid provoking him.

Inside, there were two people who hadn't been seen in three years... Julian Rathborne and Jude Crawford.

These two were drinking tea in a luxurious box. Julian Rathborne asked, "Why didn't my grandson Caden come?"

Jude Crawford elegantly and leisurely sipped his tea, "Caden didn't want to come; he encountered a rival."

"A rival?" Julian Rathborne glanced at Jude Crawford.

Jude Crawford nodded, "Yes, your other grandson has arrived."

Julian Rathborne's eyes brightened. Both men were aware of the triplets that Serena Sterling birthed three years ago.

Three years ago, Serena Sterling had a near-death experience during childbirth. Later, Seraphina Linden sealed her heart meridian with ice needles, putting her into a deep sleep for two years. At the moment she closed her eyes, Serena asked Seraphina to send her eldest son, Caden Crawford, to Hayden Crawford's side, so Seraphina enlisted Jude Crawford's help to fulfill her request.

It was Jude Crawford who had deceived his son, Hayden Crawford, claiming Caden was the result of surrogacy. For these three years, Hayden Crawford believed this without doubt and never questioned Caden's true lineage.

Over the years, Jude Crawford and Julian Rathborne watched as this eldest grandson, Caden, grew up. Because of Hayden Crawford and Serena Sterling's strong genes, Caden's intelligence was bordering on superhuman as a child. Over the past three years, Hayden further nurtured Caden to an unbelievably formidable level.

With Caden being like this, Jude Crawford and Julian Rathborne were curious about Pip's capabilities.

Julian Rathborne asked, "Have you met Pip?"

"No." Jude Crawford shook his head, calmly sipping his tea, "But I heard Pip's marksmanship is extraordinary. Last night, he effortlessly hacked his daddy's computer, then nimbly escaped under Caden's nose."

Julian Rathborne seemed to understand. Caden Crawford was personally raised by Hayden Crawford, possessing an innate talent for business, whereas little Pip grew up in Alani, raised by Seraphina Linden and Seth Sullivan, likely clever and cunning, with unmatched skills. However, what's certain is that both brothers have astonishing intelligence, truly extraordinary.

Julian Rathborne looked at Jude Crawford, wondering why Jude seemed a bit smug and boastful while drinking his tea now?

"Has Stella come?" Julian Rathborne asked.

At the mention of his only beloved granddaughter, Julian Rathborne and Jude Crawford both softened a bit. Jude Crawford put down his teacup, "I believe she has."

They've all come.

Julian Rathborne stood and approached the window, looking down at the sea of people below. "Jude, three years ago when Seraphina contacted you and asked you to help protect Caden's lineage, as a condition, she said the appearance of Serena would also mean the reappearance of her and Yara, right?"

Jude Crawford joined Julian Rathborne at the window, nodding, "Yes."

The two men did not speak further; it seemed Serena Sterling had returned with Seraphina Linden and Isabelle Willow!

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Hayden Crawford was unaware of what those two old foxes, Julian Rathborne and Jude Crawford, were plotting inside; he simply focused on the commotion below. At this moment, a rustle arose, and someone exclaimed excitedly, "Look, the Princess of Alani has arrived!"

Hayden Crawford lifted his gaze to see a parade float approaching slowly. Although the person inside couldn't be seen, a faint hint of an exquisitely delicate figure could be glimpsed inside.

Serena Sterling had arrived!

The crowd around was buzzing with excitement,

Have you seen clearly the Princess of Alani?

No, we couldn't see clearly, just a silhouette, but... that silhouette seemed like a goddess descended to the mortal world, truly beautiful.

In Westria, our most noble and beautiful princess is Princess Melody. It's hard to say who's more beautiful compared to the Princess of Alani.

I quietly tell you, it appears to be the Princess of Alani!

The parade float traveled down the street and then stopped in front of the palace.

Now the palace gates were open, with many people standing before them. In front was the ruling Lord, Titus Ashworth, with his sons, daughters, and ministers behind him.

The float stopped. Titus Ashworth looked approvingly at his two sons behind him, one Axel Ashworth and the other Kyle Ashworth, "Axel, your fiancée has arrived, go greet your fiancée."

"Yes." Axel Ashworth stepped forward briskly to the flower float.

On the observation platform, Hayden Crawford looked at this Axel Ashworth, a name renowned far and wide. His features were well-defined and handsome, tall and sturdy. Through his thin shirt, one could see the contours of his muscular physique, akin to a fortress. Unlike Hayden Crawford's reserved nobility, this Axel Ashworth embodied the wild, audacious energy of a beast king wandering the forest, exuding a more primal kind of aggression.

Axel Ashworth held command over Westria's Nine Peaks, and his methods in war were famously ruthless. The name King of Nine Peaks struck fear where it echoed.

This was an exceptionally strong rival, Hayden Crawford pressed his thin lips together.

Axel Ashworth arrived at the float; he lifted his hand to knock gently on the door, "Your Highness the Princess, Axel Ashworth is here."

With a "tap," the float door opened, and a soft, delicate hand reached out, extended towards Axel Ashworth.

Everyone present held their breath in anticipation, eagerly awaiting the moment Serena Sterling would appear.

Chapter 565: Serena Is Yours Tonight

The people on the palace side are all harboring sinister intentions.

Now, Consort Willow's children, Kyle and Melody Ashworth, are here. Melody Ashworth, as the most prestigious and beautiful princess in The State of Westria. With the appearance of Serena Sterling, everyone will inevitably draw comparisons.

Women love beauty, and no one is willing to be slightly inferior in terms of looks, so Melody keeps her eyes tightly fixed on the figure in the flower carriage, ready to compete.

Kyle Ashworth is also very handsome, but he exudes a certain coldness. Perhaps due to his fondness for beauty, his gaze is quite frivolous. Now, seeing Serena Sterling's delicate hand reaching out from the flower carriage, he subtly curls his lips into a lascivious sneer. This princess from Alani will eventually lie beneath him!

Axel Ashworth extends his large hand to receive Serena Sterling's delicate hand, then welcomes Serena out.

Hiss.

The whole place takes a deep breath, everyone stares dazedly at Serena Sterling at this moment.

Serena Sterling wears a white gauze dress, with a retro Chinese knot neckline that reveals half of her graceful, swan-like neck. Her pure black hair is braided into a princess flower braid, exposing her breathtakingly beautiful face. As she steps out, the breeze stirs the layered hem of her gown, making her look like an ethereal fairy from the palace of the moon.

Oh my, what a beautiful fairy!

Hayden Crawford stands on the observation deck, watching Serena Sterling below. His deep pupils slightly contract, a flash of intense amazement crossing them.

It is at this moment that he clearly realizes Serena Sterling is not the same as she once was. She has transformed, reborn anew, and now stands before him as the Princess of Alani.

A vibrant red three-petaled flower graces Serena Sterling's forehead, its beautiful petals enhancing her unparalleled magnificence.

Melody Ashworth stares dazedly at Serena Sterling, unwilling to concede defeat as a fellow woman, yet acknowledging her loss.

Serena Sterling's face and her ethereal demeanor overshadow Melody by far.

At this time, people around are whispering,

Oh my, the Princess of Alani appears to be a heavenly fairy descended to earth, so beautiful.

I thought our Princess Melody was beautiful enough until I saw the Princess of Alani, now I know what a frog at the bottom of a well feels like.

The Princess of Alani is much more beautiful than our Princess Melody, it's simply not on the same level.

Even though everyone tries to lower their voices to avoid Melody's awareness, Melody clearly hears the praise for Serena Sterling. She's already seething internally but shows no sign of it, her attractive face still carrying a playful, innocent smile.

Kyle Ashworth also sees Serena Sterling and is instantly captivated, unable to divert his gaze at all.

He has many concubines and an ardent love for collecting beauty in all forms, yet compared to Serena Sterling, the women he has experienced all seem vulgar and commonplace.

Kyle Ashworth's eyes quickly become intensely heated, he almost can't restrain himself from disrobing Serena and claiming her for himself.

Serena Sterling descends from the flower carriage, raising her bright eyes to gracefully address Axel Ashworth before her, "King of Nine Peaks, I've long admired your reputation. Hoping for a pleasant cooperation between us this time."

Axel Ashworth owns a pair of pitch-black eyes, he curls his lips, "Collaborating with you involves high risks, I'm still considering it. My father wants you to marry his favored son Kyle Ashworth. Just look at the way Kyle looks at you, he's nearly drooling. You're a hot potato right now; choosing a marriage alliance with you means standing against my father and Consort Willow's family, it doesn't seem worthwhile."

Now Serena Sterling and Axel Ashworth stand together, the pair looks quite eye-catching amidst the picturesque setting. With no apparent signs on their faces, Axel appears chivalrous and considerate, and

Serena gifts him a gentle smile; outsiders can only sense their affectionate interaction, guessing they're sharing intimate whispers.

Serena Sterling's bright gaze briefly passes over Kyle Ashworth's face, she arches her delicate brows, "King of Nine Peaks, I will prove myself. I believe you will cooperate with me."

Axel Ashworth notices the intelligent and resolute gleam in Serena Sterling's eye, momentarily captivating. They say the more beautiful the woman, the more dangerous; he smiles with interest, "Later at the palace party, for sure there will be quite a show waiting for you, so I'll be watching your capabilities."

Serena Sterling curves her red lips, "Alright, I'll just present King of Nine Peaks with a meeting gift."

Axel Ashworth remains curious about this "meeting gift," as the upcoming palace party may not be a pleasant one. Serena Sterling has just stepped into Titus Ashworth's territory.

Titus Ashworth wants Serena Sterling to marry his favored son Kyle Ashworth, and Consort Willow's family also has hostile intentions toward Serena. Soon, a captivating drama is about to unfold.

Serena Sterling, new to this environment, faces uncertainty on how she'll alter the course at the palace party.

The conversation between the two wraps up, Axel Ashworth leads Serena Sterling to Titus Ashworth, "Father, I've brought Serena."

Titus Ashworth's face beams with smiles, as if nothing occurred three years ago. He looks at Serena Sterling, smiling, "Serena, welcome to The State of Westria, I'm curious if your mother has accompanied you?"

Titus Ashworth eagerly inquires about Seraphina Linden.

Serena Sterling chuckles, "Uncle Ashworth, my mother will arrive for the wedding between me and King of Nine Peaks, she'll attend the ceremony."

"That's good, Serena, shall we go inside?"

The group proceeds into the palace.

...

During the palace party, Serena Sterling stands alongside Axel Ashworth, the pair becoming the focal point under the dazzling lights, receiving admiration and reverence from all.

Titus Ashworth watches the duo nearby, his eyes gradually grow cold. Axel Ashworth, his most proud son, yet this son has exceeded the master's prominence like a wild horse breaking free, escaping his control, threatening his royal authority.

Serena Sterling's impending marriage alliance with Axel Ashworth must not occur.

However, pressured by Alani's influence, Titus Ashworth cannot openly refuse, so he can only resort to underhanded tactics.

Titus glances at Axel Ashworth beside him, "Axel."

Axel Ashworth remains fixated on watching Serena Sterling, quickly returning to attention, "Father."

"Axel, I leave Serena to you tonight, you know what to do, right?"

Chapter 566: Hayden Crawford Is the Future Prince Consort

Axel quickly nodded, "Father, I know what to do. Don't worry, I won't disappoint you."

"That's good." Titus reached out and patted Axel on the shoulder. "Axel, I'm most optimistic about you. If you can successfully marry Serena Sterling, and get the entire kingdom of Alani, then I can retire in peace, handing over The State of Westria to you!"

In truth, Titus didn't want Serena to marry his son, but he could gain the entire kingdom of Alani through this marriage. At that time, Serena would be at his disposal, and the unattainable Seraphina Linden would fall into his hands; marriage was currently the fastest and best solution.

Besides, Serena was already in The State of Westria, and he needn't be afraid of that.

The greatest variable here was Axel. He had to watch out for Axel teaming up with Serena. As of now, Axel's attitude seemed indifferent, not truly choosing any side. His most proud son, Axel, was also a cunning fox.

Titus decided to take the initiative at the palace party today, to have Kyle take Serena down first and eliminate future problems!

Kyle's eyes lit up; he knew tonight was critical. Not only was it a significant test from Titus, but also because, having Serena meant gaining the entire kingdom of Alani.

Axel looked up again towards Serena not far away; this Serena was quite a beauty, and his heart was already restless.

Moreover, Axel had always overshadowed him. Where Axel was, he was merely a supporting role. If he could publicly seduce Serena, give Axel a green hat, and seize everything Axel had, the feeling would be indescribably satisfying.

Kyle found Melody and whispered, "Melody, why hasn't mother come?"

As Titus's beloved consort, over the years, Consort Willow had cherished her children Kyle and Melody greatly, using quite formidable means.

Consort Willow was an exotic beauty, unlike other consorts who had the support of a powerful maternal family. She ventured into Titus's harem alone and essentially played the entire royal family, a hidden major boss.

When mentioning mother, Melody smiled, "Mother said the roses she planted in the back garden bloomed today; she's going to pick roses and make flower cakes."

"Why is she making flower cakes now? Didn't you tell her that Princess Serena Sterling from Alani is here today?"

"Brother, why panic? Mother knows everything, but she said that Serena isn't enough to make her come out; she wants us to handle it ourselves."

"But..." Kyle was still wary of Serena, he whispered, "The kingdom of Alani possesses ancient formidable medicine, ordinary drugs will be useless against Serena. So how can I seduce her tonight?"

"Brother, mother has already planned everything for you, don't worry, I'll step in now." After speaking, Melody headed towards Serena.

Kyle's heart settled down; with mother and Melody taking action, there was no chance of failure. He was ready to enjoy conquering Serena in bed, hahaha.

...

Melody walked towards Serena, when suddenly she stopped, because she saw a tall and handsome figure, Hayden Crawford had arrived!

Hayden was dressed in a handcrafted black suit, exuding dignity and elegance with every move. His handsome features seemed carved, magnificent under the bright lights.

Hayden's arrival quickly caused a stir, with the elite daughters of The State of Westria instantly focusing on Hayden.

Look, the Solomon's big boss, the world's first financial mogul Hayden Crawford is here.

Wow, he's really handsome.

What's even more captivating than his handsome face is the purse around his waist; The Solomon controls the world's most advanced technology, and The Crawford Group, this commercial empire, spans several continents' economic lifelines. It's said he's as wealthy as a nation, money is certainly not an issue for him.

A man who is handsome, wealthy, and single, who else besides Hayden Crawford?

Melody saw those elite women gazing at Hayden with infatuation. She curled her lips in disdain and contempt, adjusted her skirt, and walked charmingly forward. "Mr. Crawford, you're here."

Melody walked to Hayden's side and intimately held onto Hayden's strong arm.

She was declaring to everyone present; this man Hayden Crawford is mine!

Sure enough, the elite daughters' girlish hearts instantly shattered,

Wake up, stop dreaming, the world's first financial mogul Hayden Crawford has already been reserved by our Princess Melody.

For three years, Hayden Crawford and Princess Melody have been quite ambiguous. Last time, on Princess Melody's birthday, Hayden Crawford gifted her a magical fireworks show.

Melody saw those elite daughters retreat knowingly; inwardly, she sneered, no sl** should dare try to snatch her man!

Although her heart was exceedingly malicious, her beautiful face always looked innocent and pure, she looked up at Hayden Crawford and froze instantly.

Because Hayden Crawford wasn't looking at her; Hayden was looking at someone else.

Who?

Melody followed Hayden Crawford's gaze, and the person he was looking at was... Serena.

Hayden Crawford was looking at Serena. Ever since he entered, his gaze had been fixed on Serena, never moving away.

Melody's eyes flickered with something quickly, but she smiled, "Mr. Crawford, that is Princess Serena Sterling of Alani, the future Consort Willow. Let me introduce you."

Melody accompanied Hayden Crawford to step forward.

Serena was always with Axel; it seemed like their hearts were connected. She felt a deep and burning gaze fall on her, turned her head, and immediately saw Hayden Crawford.

Hayden Crawford walked over with Melody, and Melody was still holding his strong arm; the two looked extremely intimate and ambiguous.

Axel held a glass of red wine, noticing Serena's gaze fell on Hayden Crawford. He took a sip of wine and said softly, "That's Hayden Crawford, the world's foremost financial mogul. He seems to have some history with Melody; rumors say he's the future consort. If he truly falls for Melody, even if the two of us join forces, there's no chance of winning."

Is that so?

Serena shuddered slightly with her long lashes. Three years ago, when she left, she saw Melody pursuing Hayden Crawford relentlessly; are they together now?

Serena watched Melody step forward step by step; this Melody was definitely not an ordinary character, she was extremely high-level.

Chapter 567: Mr. Crawford Is Not a Name You Can Use

Serena stood with her graceful and delicate back straight, her clear and bright eyes calmly falling on Melody's pretty little face, watching her walk over with her arm linked through Hayden Crawford's.

"Sister Serena," Melody called out affectionately to Serena as if Serena were her actual sister, "Sister Serena, Brother Axel, let me introduce someone to you, this is the head of the first financial conglomerate, Hayden Crawford."

Hayden Crawford stopped in front of Axel Ashworth and Serena, his deep and narrow eyes glanced casually at Serena before settling on Axel's handsome face. He extended his hand, "The King of Nine Peaks, pleased to meet you."

"Mr. Crawford, hello." Axel also reached out his big hand.

The two men shook hands, a gesture meant to be brief, but Axel soon noticed something was off. Hayden's distinctive fingers slowly tightened, gripping him, as if challenging him discreetly.

Axel paused momentarily; he had never interacted with Hayden before, so Hayden's sudden jealousy and hostility bewildered him.

However, Axel quickly narrowed his dark eyes; he had already keenly detected the subtle aura between Hayden and Serena. It seemed... these two had a history.

Axel returned the grip, sparking a quiet duel between the two men.

"Mr. Crawford~" At this moment, Melody called out to Hayden sweetly.

Hayden released his grip, ending the silent contest with Axel.

"Mr. Crawford, my brother Axel and sister Serena are really a perfect match, aren't they? I even heard that sister Serena wants to move the wedding date forward, so she can marry my brother Axel soon." Melody said with a smile.

Hearing this, Hayden's handsome brows furrowed deeply, his eyes, as cold as a frigid abyss, fixed directly onto Serena's exquisite little face. Was she really that eager to marry Axel?

Hayden had always believed that in the past three years, Serena had been with Seth Sullivan since they even had a child, yet now she was to become the Princess of Nine Peaks.

Hayden's thin lips curled into a faint and mocking smile as he looked at Serena, "The Princess of Alani looks very familiar to me, she reminds me of someone I knew."

Serena didn't speak, waiting for Hayden's follow-up; she intuitively knew he wouldn't say anything pleasant.

Mr. Crawford~

Melody's constant calling of Hayden as "Mr. Crawford" caused Serena to feel a little dazed because that title contained so much of their past affection.

But now, it wasn't Serena addressing him as "Mr. Crawford"; it had become Melody.

"Oh, I wonder who Mr. Crawford is referring to?" Axel asked with interest.

Hayden shook his head, "I must have mistaken someone. How could the Princess of Alani possibly be someone I used to know? That woman used her beauty to charm many men, and the key point is that woman even had a child. I think the Princess of Alani is definitely not that person."

Speaking of which, Hayden glanced at Axel, saying with half a smile, "I think the King of Nine Peaks must have thoroughly investigated the background of his bride before marrying her. How could the King marry a woman who had been with another man and had a child with him? That would be picking up someone else's leftovers."

As these words landed, Axel's brows twitched slightly, but he said nothing. Serena's slender, pale fingers hanging at her side curled up, stung by Hayden's words.

Serena didn't expect Hayden to speak so sharply now; after the two had separated, shouldn't a man of his high education and etiquette refrain from mentioning a former lover? Yet here he was complaining in front of Axel, making remarks tinged with jealousy.

Serena and Axel remained silent, while Melody exclaimed, quickly covering her mouth and widening her eyes, "Oh my, how can there be such shameless women in this world?"

With that, Melody looked innocently and playfully at Serena, "Sister Serena, you surely aren't the woman Mr. Crawford is talking about, right?"

Serena slowly curled her red lips as she looked directly at Melody, "Just now, Mr. Crawford's words also made me think of a person. I suddenly feel that Princess Melody is quite like that person."

Melody stiffened.

"Every expression and move of Princess Melody seem to be carved out from that person's mold, even this 'Mr. Crawford' is mimicking that person. I hope this is all my misunderstanding; how could Princess Melody live as someone else's shadow? Keeping a mask on for too long, one might end up forgetting who they really are."

As Serena finished these words, Melody's pretty little face turned pale; it was the first time she truly witnessed Serena's sharp tongue.

Indeed, for the past three years to win Hayden's favor, to make him glance her way more often, Melody had always been imitating Serena.

Now Melody was like Serena used to be in Bayside, the appearance Hayden loved most.

The atmosphere among the four was extremely tense, carrying the oppressive scent of gunpowder.

At this moment, melodious piano music began in the party hall, marking the time for dancing.

Axel quickly glanced at Serena, bowing gentlemanly, "Princess Serena, may I have the honor of a dance?"

"Of course you may." Serena placed her small hand into Axel's palm.

The two of them glided into the dance floor.

Today's palace party was prepared for Serena and Axel. Now they danced the first dance on the dance floor. Under sparkling lights, Serena spun gracefully with Axel, the hem of her white gauze skirt swirling in waves, creating stunning arcs with each step.

Watching Axel and Serena dance, Hayden pressed his thin lips into a chilling line.

If looks could kill, Axel and Serena would have died hundreds of times already.

"Mr. Crawford, does sister Serena not like me? I'm so saddened because sister Serena is older than me, and I genuinely think of her as a sister." Melody said with a face full of grievance.

She stepped hard on Serena in front of Hayden, after all, Serena was a few years older than her, and men often preferred younger women.

Hayden didn't look at Melody, he said blandly, "No worries, she's more beautiful than you."

"..." Melody stiffened, staring at Hayden in shock.

At this moment, Hayden turned to leave, but before he did, he glanced at Melody, "Use a different title in the future, a shadow always remains a shadow. Now that the true one has returned, compared to her, you're nothing but a counterfeit, and 'Mr. Crawford' isn't something you can call."

Chapter 568: The Cheating Scandal

Hayden Crawford left without another word.

Melody Ashworth stood frozen in place, feeling as if a bucket of cold water had been poured over her, leaving her humiliated and embarrassed.

In the past three years, Hayden Crawford hadn't promised her anything, but he definitely treated her differently. Melody had always been confident that she could make her way to his side, but now his words quickly shattered her delusion.

It turned out that what made her feel special was just an illusion, and now that Serena Sterling was back, he mercilessly kicked her aside like a counterfeit.

Melody watched Serena on the dance floor, her eyes flashing with deep-seated venom.

At that moment, a maid approached. Melody glanced at the maid, who nodded and then left.

Melody curled her lips. The show was about to begin; once Serena was lying in her brother's bed, used by him, she'd like to see how she could still compete with her!

...

On the dance floor.

Titus Ashworth gentlemanly held Serena's soft waist, lowering his voice, "Mr. Crawford has left. What is your relationship with him? Let me guess."

Serena looked up at Titus.

Titus smirked, "If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Crawford must be the man you enchanted. I'm taking over his place now."

Serena looked at Titus frankly, "King of Nine Peaks, we're only discussing cooperation, not feelings. This is private, so I won't comment."

Titus nodded, pretending he said nothing, "Then let's get back to business. You've certainly provoked Melody Ashworth this time. This drama is going to be even more thrilling."

Serena raised her delicate arched eyebrows, "Then please, King of Nine Peaks, set the stage and let's watch the show!"

The dance ended, and Titus and Serena parted ways as Serena headed to the restroom.

Because the palace was so large, Serena couldn't find the restroom for a moment. She asked a maid, "Excuse me, where is the restroom?"

The maid immediately replied respectfully, "Princess of Alani, please follow me."

The maid led the way ahead while Serena followed behind. Soon, Serena heard a string of clear bell sounds, which seemed to have a magical power, making people lose their reason and simply follow the sound.

Serena's bright pupils quickly lost their usual brilliance, becoming hollow, as she mechanically followed the maid.

Soon, the maid opened a door, "Princess of Alani, please."

Serena stepped inside.

...

Outside the room, Titus Ashworth came over. The maid nodded at him and quietly left. Titus was overjoyed, rubbing his hands eagerly outside before he impatiently pushed the door open.

Titus entered the room and saw an antique-style screen. Through it, he vaguely saw a slender, graceful silhouette standing behind.

"Princess of Alani, I'm here!" Titus quickly rushed in, throwing himself towards the slender figure.

At that moment, Melody was waiting outside. Everything was going according to plan, smoothly. Now it was her turn.

She and Kyle were working inside and out, ensuring Serena couldn't escape.

"Serena!" Melody suddenly shouted loudly, "Serena, where are you? Serena!"

Melody's loud voice quickly drew everyone's attention. People came running over, concerned, asking, "Princess Melody, what happened?"

Melody looked frantic, "Have you seen Serena? I can't find her anywhere!"

What?

The Princess of Alani has disappeared. This is a big deal, and everyone started looking for Serena.

Then, from a nearby room, a soft feminine voice suddenly broke out, "Ah!"

The voice was abrupt and filled with ambiguity, quickly reaching everyone's ears.

Everyone exchanged glances, "It seems like there are people in that room, could the Princess of Alani be inside?"

"I hear something strange, could there be a man in there too?"

At this moment, Titus Ashworth walked over, and everyone quickly surrounded his tall, strong figure, "King of Nine Peaks, you're just in time. Aren't you with the Princess of Alani? It seems she's in that room with another man... in secret rendezvous."

"Impossible!" Melody immediately defended Serena, "Serena is not like that; she's the future bride of the King of Nine Peaks, she wouldn't cheat on my brother Titus."

Everyone quickly said,

Princess Melody, you're too kind. People can be deceptive; how do you know the Princess of Alani is as innocent and kind as you?

"I still don't believe it. To prove Serena's innocence, I'll open the door, and we'll see together!" With that, Melody emotionally grabbed the door handle and pushed the door open.

Titus stood on the side, leisurely watching the drama unfold. He understood perfectly that inside the room were Kyle and Serena. Melody had intentionally gathered everyone to catch them in the act. In this way, Serena would have to marry Kyle, and the green hat on his head would be impossible to remove, truly a scheme achieving two goals with one move.

But, would the person in the room really be Serena? Titus was very curious.

Just then, with a "click," the door opened, and Melody led everyone rushing in, "Serena..."

Melody was certain it was Serena inside because she had seen Serena enter with her own eyes, but the next second, her pupils shrank, and she froze in shock.

The room indeed housed a man and a woman. The man was indeed Kyle Ashworth, but the woman wasn't Serena!

Kyle's clothes were almost gone, leaving only his underwear. He was holding a woman, desperately tearing at her clothes and kissing her face.

The woman's clothes were disheveled from the struggle, yet she resisted fiercely, scratching deep red marks on Kyle's body with her long nails.

"Kyle Ashworth, let me go! I am Rosalind Newman, daughter of Kaleb Newman, the Chief of the Palace Guards. Let go of me!" Rosalind Newman angrily rebuked.

Those who rushed in were dumbfounded. They had all expected Serena, but instead, it was Kaleb Newman's only daughter, Rosalind Newman.

Currently, Titus controlled Nine Peaks, and Kyle held the power over the palace guards. This was Kyle's greatest leverage, as Kaleb Newman, the Chief of the Guards, was quite influential, acting as Kyle's right-hand man.

Kyle had actually dared to lay hands on Kaleb's daughter, leaving everyone exchanging incredulous glances.

Melody's face had already changed drastically, and she quickly reacted, "Brother, what are you doing? Are you drunk?"

Chapter 569: The Wine That Doesn't Intoxicate, But People Get Drunk

Today, everything went smoothly, which made Melody lower her guard. She never expected that the person inside would be Kaleb Newman's only daughter, Rosalind.

Kaleb, as the head of the Royal Guard, has been in position for forty years. He is fiercely loyal to the royal family, and those generals of the Royal Guard are also utterly devoted to him.

When Titus Ashworth entrusted the Royal Guard to Kyle Ashworth, Kaleb, though somewhat critical of Kyle, still wholeheartedly assisted him.

Kyle lacks ability and completely relies on Kaleb. If he offends Kaleb, it would be akin to cutting off his own arm, very painful!

Rosalind must not be touched.

Melody quickly rushed forward, already having found an excuse of "being drunk" to minimize the damage. She reached out to pull Kyle away, "Brother, how much have you drunk? This is Miss Newman, let go quickly!"

By all accounts, there was already such a commotion, and Melody had come to pull at Kyle; Kyle should have let go, but he didn't. He just held onto Rosalind tightly, spewing vulgarities, "Princess of Alani, just give in to me. From the moment I saw you stepping down from the float, I wanted nothing more than to strip you and pin you under me."

"Princess of Alani, what does Axel Ashworth have that's so great? Why would you marry him? Just wait, someday I'll trample Axel underfoot. Let me serve you well now; I'll satisfy you better than Axel, leave you ecstatic."

Hiss.

The whole room drew sharp breaths. Today, princes, princesses, and influential ministers of Westria were all attending the palace party, and hearing such foul language from Kyle, some older ministers turned red with anger, lamenting his uselessness, unable to help him!

People began murmuring softly,

Oh my, did I hear wrong? Prince Kyle is actually lusting after the Princess of Alani?

The Princess of Alani is the future consort of the King of Nine Peaks, his future sister-in-law. This is really... goes against ethics, too indecent!

Didn't you hear just now? Prince Kyle also wants to trample the King of Nine Peaks underfoot.

Shush, don't say any more. The two princes are involved in a struggle for the throne. Prince Kyle has the main ruler's favor. No matter how disgraceful he is, with the ruler's protection, we must be cautious of loose talk leading to trouble.

I really admire Consort Willow, I don't know what she whispered to the ruler that made him favor Prince Kyle so much.

These discussions reached Melody's ears, whose pretty face turned cold. Compared to the illustrious Axel Ashworth, Kyle truly seemed mediocre, but with Titus Ashworth's protection these years, no one dared say anything.

Now Kyle's attempt to molest Rosalind seems more like a trigger, ready to ignite everyone's pent-up discontent.

Melody immediately realized the severity of the situation. She ran to the washroom, filled a basin with cold water, and then splashed it all over Kyle.

"Ah!"

Kyle, doused with cold water, quickly let go of Rosalind, regaining his rationality and sobriety.

"Who, who dared to splash me with cold water like this? I'll kill you, wipe out your family!" Kyle cursed ferociously, his eyes bloodshot.

An old minister spoke, "Prince Kyle, it's not us who splashed the cold water. We value our lives too much to risk our families for your wrath. Look closely, the one who splashed the water is your sister, Princess Melody. Go and settle it with her and her family if you dare!"

Only then did Kyle realize what had occurred. He looked at Melody, who wore an expression full of gloom, and then turned his gaze to Rosalind.

"Miss!" Just then, Rosalind's maid rushed over, quickly draping a coat over her.

Rosalind wrapped herself in the coat, glaring at Kyle with utmost aversion and hatred. If it weren't for Kyle's stature as a prince, she would have likely fought him to the death.

Kyle's mind went blank, he quickly spoke, "Rosalind, why is it you? Where's the Princess of Alani? She..."

"Brother, enough!" Melody sternly reprimanded.

Kyle then realized he misspoke. Asking about Serena Sterling now would reveal his plot against the Princess of Alani.

Melody intended to resolve this matter swiftly and discreetly, before it escalated. Just as she was about to speak, a clear and pleasant voice suddenly sounded, "Who's looking for me? I'm right here."

Everyone turned to see that one of the main characters, Serena Sterling, had finally made her entrance!

Seeing Serena appear unscathed, both Kyle and Melody's expressions shifted, particularly Melody's eyes that quickly flashed with something. No one could resist the allure of the Bell's charm; once it sounded, everyone would conform.

How did Serena escape?

Melody could only suppress her doubts and wait to ask her mother when she returned to the harem.

Serena walked in, stopping beside Axel Ashworth. She lifted her bright and innocent eyes to look at Axel, and asked naively, "King of Nine Peaks, what happened?"

Axel looked at Serena next to him. She actually executed a brilliant plan to escape the predicament, her bewildered appearance now feigning ignorance. Truly cunning and sly.

"Oh, Prince Kyle drank a little too much earlier, causing a bit of a scene." Axel replied.

"Drinking?" Serena feigned a sniff with her delicate nose, "I don't smell any alcohol. Prince Kyle must have gotten drunk without drinking. It seems Westria is quite unsafe. Everyone, be a witness. If anything happens to me in Westria, you must all keep your eyes on Prince Kyle. This time, it disgraced Miss Newman, harming her reputation."

As Serena's words fell, everyone gasped, having discerned the general situation. They began to whisper again,

Indeed, Prince Kyle covets the Princess of Alani, so he set up this situation for her. Unfortunately, Miss Newman entered instead.

Prince Kyle really acts recklessly with the ruler's favor. Now he's a prince; if he ever becomes the ruler, people would be left in distress.

Don't you know Prince Kyle's romantic escapades? I heard he killed a little girl awhile ago.

With Serena's arrival, public opinion intensified, making Kyle the target of criticism. Everyone pointed and talked about him. His face had turned exceedingly grim.

The key issue is, he would no longer have a chance to act against Serena in the future; she had already said that if anything happened to her in the future, it would be attributed to him!

Chapter 570: Alani's Daughter, Unrivaled Beauty of the World

Serena Sterling used this incident to publicly expose his lecherous desire, truly a one-time solution to eliminate future troubles.

Now all eyes are watching, and Kyle Ashworth doesn't dare to make another move, completely destroying Titus Ashworth's plans to marry Serena Sterling off to him.

Tonight's plan not only failed but ended in disastrous defeat.

Serena Sterling won the first battle.

Kyle Ashworth realized Serena Sterling's tactics; this Princess of Alani is no ordinary person.

At this point, Rosalind Newman could not bear the humiliation anymore. She wrapped her coat tightly around herself and ran away, eyes red.

"Miss!" The maid quickly chased after her.

Kyle Ashworth was already feeling a bit of a headache; tonight, he not only missed out on the lamb but also got covered in a mess. This Rosalind Newman is the only daughter of his right-hand man, Kaleb Newman. How is he supposed to handle this mess?

"Get out of my way!" Kyle Ashworth shouted in a bad mood, then swaggered out.

The authoritative officials looked at Kyle Ashworth's arrogant figure, shook their heads in disappointment, and followed him out.

Everyone dispersed, and Melody Ashworth saw everything clearly. In this battle, her brother Kyle Ashworth completely lost the people's support.

Melody Ashworth looked at Serena Sterling, her usual silly smile gone, with icy eyes staring at Serena Sterling.

Axel Ashworth whispered, "Serena, I'll wait for you outside."

"Alright." Serena Sterling nodded.

Axel Ashworth walked out.

Now only Serena Sterling and Melody Ashworth were left in the room. Melody Ashworth sneered, "Serena Sterling, you've really opened my eyes today."

Serena Sterling lifted her small hand, tucking a strand of hair behind her ear, and smiled, "Princess Melody, you flatter me, but tonight is just the beginning."

This battle had silently begun.

Melody Ashworth stepped forward and approached Serena Sterling, "Serena Sterling, you just want to marry Axel Ashworth and become the Queen of Nine Peaks, so you're really giving up Hayden Crawford? If you don't want him, I'll take him."

Serena Sterling looked into Melody Ashworth's provocative eyes, "Then why haven't you managed to get Hayden Crawford in these three years? Even when I wasn't around, you couldn't win him over, and now that I'm here, where does your confidence come from to boast in front of me?"

"You!" Melody Ashworth was so angry her mouth twisted.

Serena Sterling chuckled softly, "Hayden Crawford is quite charming, isn't he? Handsomeness, wealth, power, status—all accumulated on him. In tailored suits, he's the epitome of restraint, with a sexual allure reaching its peak at the age of 32 that makes people blush. You like him, and for three years you've been mimicking my style and mannerisms, trying to exploit a gap."

"But do you truly understand Hayden Crawford? A man like him, deep, reserved, and powerful, no one can fathom what he's truly thinking. Over these three years, the more you did, the more you exposed yourself before him. You believe you disguised yourself adorably, emulating everything he likes, but he saw through it all, looking at your clumsy performance and disguise like a clown on stage."

"You're pleased with the little kindness he shows you, not knowing that among the variety of women around him these past years, none touched him—not because you couldn't play the game, but because you don't

even qualify in his mind. After all, those who pretend to act cute are far more genuine than your pathetic, laughable foolishness."

"That's right, Melody Ashworth, in Hayden Crawford's eyes, that's exactly who you've always been."

Melody Ashworth's face turned pale, shocked by Serena Sterling's words. No, she refused to believe what Serena Sterling said. Surely there was some affection for her in Hayden Crawford's heart, otherwise, he wouldn't treat her differently!

"Serena Sterling, stop talking nonsense; I won't believe you."

Serena Sterling leaned in closer to Melody Ashworth, her bright eyes turning sharp, "If you want to deceive yourself, that's fine. As long as you're happy."

With that, Serena Sterling left.

...

Serena Sterling left the palace and met Axel Ashworth outside, who had been waiting for her.

"Princess of Alani, is this your welcoming gift to me?" Axel Ashworth smiled.

Serena Sterling nodded, "Exactly."

"My father is already furious inside. This is probably the first time Consort Willow's family has suffered such a setback. Although it feels good, have you considered that Kaleb Newman is excessively loyal? To resolve this issue, my father and Kaleb will likely marry Rosalind Newman to Kyle Ashworth, further strengthening his power with the Imperial Guard under his control."

Serena Sterling stood under the eaves, looking at the distant green mountains, and suddenly said, "What do you think about making Kaleb Newman loyal to you?"

Axel Ashworth paused.

Serena Sterling slowly curved her red lips into a smile, "If Kaleb Newman pledges loyalty to you, it would be like cutting off one of Kyle Ashworth's arms, and the Imperial Guard would face internal conflict, with at least half of the forces coming under your control. What do you think, King of Nine Peaks?"

Axel Ashworth slowly narrowed his dark eyes, staring at Serena Sterling, "Kaleb Newman is excessively loyal, his mindset deeply ingrained. Turning loyal to me would mean betraying the royal family. Would he agree?"

"What do you think my gift to you was? My gift is Kaleb Newman." With that, Serena Sterling nodded slightly and walked away.

"Master," at this moment, Axel Ashworth's close aide whispered, "can this Princess of Alani truly handle Kaleb Newman?"

Axel Ashworth looked up at Serena Sterling walking into the distance. She wore a black cape over her white gauzy dress, her slender figure melting into the distant night.

A black luxury minivan awaited in the distance. The Alani lady-in-waiting by Serena Sterling's side, Cherie, respectfully opened the back door. Serena Sterling got in, and the minivan sped away.

Axel Ashworth watched Serena Sterling's charm unfold within her calm composure and slowly said, "Do you remember that wandering monk from years ago?"

The aide nodded, "Of course, I remember. When you were born, the sky was filled with red clouds, and that wandering monk pointed to the brightest star in the sky, saying that the Emperor Star had appeared, destined to rule the earth one day."

Axel Ashworth continued, "You all don't know that the monk said another sentence back then."

"What did he say?"

"The monk pointed to a dazzling star and said, 'Alani will have a woman of unrivaled beauty, the Empress Star appearing simultaneously, heralding an era of dual rulers.'"

The aide was shocked. Alani's woman, could it refer to... Serena Sterling?!

...

Royal Palace.

Titus Ashworth threw a tantrum; he smashed many things and scolded Kyle Ashworth harshly, "How did I end up with such a useless son who can't even handle Serena Sterling? Now look, your scheme against the Princess of Alani not only failed but led to scandalous rumors involving the Warren family's heiress, Rosalind Newman, spreading across town. It's been printed and circulated as various versions of salacious stories. The royal family's face has been completely lost by you!"